



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

☒ General Waiver

SUBJECT

Request by **West Covina Unified School District** to waive *Education Code* (EC) section 37202, the equity length of time requirement for kindergarten students to allow a full day kindergarten program at three of the district's nine elementary schools, **California, Cameron and Merlinda Elementary Schools**.

Waiver Number: 8-7-2004

☒ **Action**

☐ **Consent**

RECOMMENDATION

☐ **Approval** ☒ **Approval with conditions** ☐ **Denial**

For one year with the condition that the district submit an evaluation of the program before a renewal of the waiver is considered.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The State Board of Education (SBE) has approved similar waivers in the past.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The West Covina Unified School District requests a waiver of EC section 37202, in order to establish an extended day kindergarten program at three of their nine elementary schools, California, Cameron and Merlinda. All of the school site councils in the district discussed this pilot program and approved. Their school board adopted the Early Primary Program, EC sections 8970-8974 to ensure developmentally appropriate activities and the district has an open enrollment policy.

The pilot program will increase the number of minutes to kindergarten pupils at the three schools from 200 minutes daily to 320 minutes daily. This will allow teachers to spend more time on language arts and mathematics. The extra time will also provide students will the ability to work at their own pace. Additional time will allow for the expansion of fine arts, supplemental programs such as Mountain Math, Mountain Language and Second Step. Instruction at this early level can be given in-depth providing adequate time for pupils to fully understand and grasp concepts increasing their academic success in later grades. Studies, such as the one by the National Center for Education Statistics, "Full-day and Half-day Kindergarten in the United States, Findings from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99," state that students participating in a full-day kindergarten compared to a half-day kindergarten do better in language arts and mathematics.

Therefore, the department recommends approval of the waiver for one year with the condition that an evaluation be submitted before a renewal will be considered.

Authority for Waiver: *Education Code* (EC) Section 33050

Period of request: October 1, 2004 to June 24, 2005

Local board approval date(s): July 20, 2004

Public hearing held on date(s): July 20, 2004

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): 03/18/04, 04/17/04 and 04/26/04

Name of bargaining unit/representative(s) consulted: Cheryl West, Shelly Stoppa, and Dwight Ek, Teachers Association of West Covina. Gary Hunter, CSEA.

Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):

☐ Neutral ☒ Support ☐ Oppose

Comments (if appropriate):

Public hearing advertised by (choose one or more):

☒ posting in a newspaper ☐ posting at each school ☐ other (specify)

Advisory committee(s) consulted: All school site councils reviewed waiver without objection.

Objections raised (choose one): ☒ None ☐ Objections are as follows:

Date(s) consulted: From April 20 to April 29, 2004

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

The district will absorb will costs incurred.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.